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**LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER
DECEMBER 2006**

Production of red meat in **Colorado** during December 2006 totaled 123.7 million pounds, down 13 percent from the same month a year earlier and 18 percent below November 2006. **Beef** slaughter during December was down 15 percent from a year ago to 139,200 head but the average live weight increased 6 pounds to 1,331. **Hog** slaughter was placed at 700 head for December 2006, down from 1,000 head a year earlier. The average live weight of 263 pounds was up 2 pounds from a year earlier. The preliminary **total red meat production** for all months of 2006 totaled 1.82 billion pounds, up 3 percent from the 1.76 billion pounds produced during 2005.

Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 3.86 billion pounds in December, down 2 percent from the 3.95 billion pounds produced in December 2005. **Beef production**, at 2.04 billion pounds, was 1 percent below the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.61 million head, down 2 percent from December 2005. The average live weight was up 17 pounds from the previous year, at 1,297 pounds.

Veal production totaled 14.4 million pounds, 7 percent above December a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 68,100 head, up 13 percent from December 2005. The average live weight was 25 pounds below last year, at 346 pounds.

Pork production totaled 1.79 billion pounds, down 4 percent from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 8.88 million head, 4 percent below December 2005. The average live weight was unchanged the previous year, at 272 pounds.

Lamb and mutton production, at 15.3 million pounds, was down 8 percent from December 2005. Sheep slaughter totaled 223,700 head, 3 percent below last year. The average live weight was 136 pounds, down 7 pounds from December a year ago.

January to December 2006 commercial red meat production was 47.4 billion pounds, up 4 percent from 2005.

Accumulated beef production was up 6 percent from last year, veal was up slightly, pork was up 2 percent from last year, and lamb and mutton production was down 1 percent.

Red Meat Production Colorado and United States

Area and Specie	Dec. 2005	Nov. 2006	Dec. 2006	January-December	
				2005	2006
Million Pounds					
Colorado:	142.1	150.6	123.7	1,761.3	1,823.6
United States:	3,954.0	4,137.0	3,863.0	45,711.0	47,411.0
Beef	2,057.0	2,217.0	2,040.0	24,682.0	26,071.0
Veal	13.5	14.3	14.4	155.8	156.2
Pork	1,866.0	1,890.0	1,793.0	20,685.0	20,999.0
Lamb & Mutton	16.5	15.3	15.3	187.1	184.9

1/ Totals may not add due to rounding.

**CATTLE INVENTORY
JANUARY 1, 2007**

The January 1, 2007 inventory of all cattle and calves in **Colorado** totaled 2.70 million head, up 50,000 head from January 1, 2006. Beef cows, at 725,000 head, were up 50,000 from the previous year. Milk cows increased 10,000 head from last year to 115,000 head. Colorado's 2006 calf crop was up 4 percent from 2005 to 790,000.

Other class estimates as of January 1, 2007 and percent changes from 2006 were as follows: Beef replacement heifers 500 pounds and over, no change from last year at 115,000; milk replacement heifers 500 pounds and over, up 9 percent to 60,000 head; other heifers 500 pounds and over, down 3 percent at 560,000; steers 500 pounds and over, up 1 percent to 930,000; bulls 500 pounds and over, no change at 45,000; and calves under 500 pounds, down 3 percent to 150,000 head. The total inventory included 1,130,000 head of cattle and calves on feed, which was up 1 percent from January 1, 2006.

All cattle and calves in the **United States** as of January 1, 2007, totaled 97.0 million head, slightly above the 96.7 million on January 1, 2006. All cows and heifers that have calved, at 42.0 million, were down slightly from the 42.1 million on January 1, 2006. Beef cows, at 32.9 million, were down slightly from January 1, 2006. Milk cows, at 9.13 million, were up 1 percent from January 1, 2006. Other class estimates on January 1, 2007, and the change from January 1, 2006, are as follows: All heifers 500 pounds and over, 20.1 million, up 1 percent. Beef replacement heifers, 5.88 million, down slightly. Milk replacement heifers, 4.31 million, up 1 percent. Other heifers, 9.90 million, up 1 percent. Steers

weighing 500 pounds and over, 17.2 million, up 2 percent. Bulls weighing 500 pounds and over, 2.22 million, down 2 percent. Calves under 500 pounds, 15.5 million, down slightly. Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter in all feedlots, 14.3 million, up 1 percent. The combined total of calves under 500 pounds, and other heifers and steers over 500 pounds outside of feedlots was 28.3 million, up 1 percent. The 2006 calf crop was estimated at 37.6 million head, down slightly from 2005. Calves born during the first half of the year are estimated at 27.4 million, up slightly from 2005.

SHEEP AND LAMB INVENTORY JANUARY 1, 2007

The January 1, 2007 inventory of all sheep and lambs in **Colorado** totaled 400,000 head, up 3 percent from the 390,000 on hand as of January 1, 2006. The number of breeding sheep and lambs was unchanged from last year at 190,000 head while the number of market sheep and lambs increased 5 percent to 210,000. There was a 11 percent decrease in the number of replacement lambs to 32,000 head. The number of ewes one year old and older increased 10 percent from last year to 148,000 head, while the number of rams one year old and older remained unchanged from last years number of 6,000 head. Of the 210,000 head of market sheep and lambs, 2,000 head were market sheep and 208,000 head were market lambs.

There were 1,000 lambs weighing less than 65 pounds this year, down 2,000 head from a year earlier; 20,000 were in the 65-84 pound weight group, up from 9,000 from the previous year; 37,000 weighed 85-105 pounds compared with 40,000 last year; and 150,000 weighed over 105 pounds compared with the 145,000 head in this weight group on January 1, 2006. The 2006 lamb crop, at 190,000 head, was up 9 percent from the 2005 lamb crop of 175,000.

All sheep and lamb inventory in the **United States** on January 1, 2007, totaled 6.19 million head, down 1 percent from 2006, but still 1 percent above 2005. After two consecutive year to year increases inventory growth was hampered by extremely dry weather in the Southwestern part of the United States. Breeding sheep inventory decreased to 4.62 million head on January 1, 2007, down slightly from 4.64 million head on January 1, 2006. Ewes one year old and older, at 3.71 million head, were 1 percent above last year. Market sheep and lambs on January 1, 2007, totaled 1.57 million head, down 2 percent from January 1, 2006. Market lambs comprised 94 percent of the total marketings. Twenty-five percent were lambs under 65 pounds, 14 percent were 65 - 84 pounds, 25 percent were 85 - 105 pounds, and 36 percent were over 105 pounds. Market sheep comprised the remaining 6 percent of total marketings.

The 2006 lamb crop of 4.09 million head, was down 1 percent from 2005. The 2006 lambing rate was 112 lambs per 100 ewes one year old and older on January 1, 2006, down 3 percent from 2005.

WOOL PRODUCTION – 2006

Wool production in **Colorado** during 2006 totaled 2.60 million pounds, down from 2.65 million pounds produced in 2005. The number of all sheep and lambs shorn, at 380,000 head, was down 10 percent from 420,000 head shorn a year earlier. The value of wool production for 2006 totaled \$1.95 million, up 17 percent from a year earlier as producers received 75 cents per pound of wool sold compared with 63 cents per pound the previous year.

Shorn wool production in the **United States** during 2006 was 36.0 million pounds, down 3 percent from 2005. Sheep and lambs shorn totaled 4.85 million head, down 4 percent from 2005. The average price paid for wool sold in 2006 was \$0.68 per pound for a total value of 24.4 million dollars, down 7 percent from 26.3 million dollars in 2005.

GOAT INVENTORY JANUARY 1, 2007

All goat inventory in **Colorado** on January 1, 2007, totaled 44,000 head. Meat and all other goats accounted for 35,000 head compared with 30,000 on January 1, 2006. Milk goats totaled 8,000 head, up from 7,000 a year ago, and Angora goats remained unchanged from last year at 1,000 head.

All goat inventory in the **United States** on January 1, 2007, totaled 2.93 million head, up 3 percent from 2006. Breeding goat inventory totaled 2.44 million head up 3 percent from 2006. All market goats and kids totaled 494,000 head, up 4 percent from a year ago. On January 1, 2007 meat and all other goats totaled 2.40 million head, up 5 percent from 2006. Milk goat inventory increased 2 percent to 296,000 head while angora goats were down 8 percent totaling 238,000 head. The 2006 kid crop totaled 1.92 million head for all goats, up 4 percent from 2005.

Mohair production in the **United States** during 2006 was 1.35 million pounds. Goats and kids clipped totaled 216,000 head. Average weight per clip was 6.30 pounds. Mohair price was \$3.68 per pound with a value of 4.98 million dollars.

AGRICULTURAL PRICES JANUARY 15, 2007

The preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by Farmers in January, at 124 percent, based on 1990-92=100, increased 3 points (2.5 percent) from December. The Crop Index is up 4 points (3.1 percent) and the Livestock Index increased 3 points (2.7 percent). Producers received higher commodity prices for corn, oranges, broilers, and eggs.

The January **All Crops Index** is 132, up 3.1 percent from December and 22 percent above January 2006. The January all wheat price, at \$4.50 per bushel, is down a cent from December but 98 cents above January 2006. The corn price, at \$3.23 per bushel, is up 22 cents from last month and \$1.23 above January 2006. The all hay price, at \$112 per ton, is \$4.00 above December and \$18.90 above last January. Sorghum grain, at \$6.43 per cwt, is 34 cents above December and \$3.27 above January last year. The soybean price, at

\$6.42 per bushel, increased 24 cents from December and is 55 cents above January 2006. The all potato price, at \$6.98 per cwt, is up 8 cents from December but down 9 cents from last January. The all dry bean price, at \$22.70 per cwt, is up \$1.10 from the previous month and \$3.50 above January 2006.

The January **Livestock and Products Index**, at 116, is 2.7 percent above last month but down 1.7 percent from January 2006. The January hog price, at \$41.40 per cwt, is down \$2.10 from December but 70 cents higher than a year ago. The January beef cattle price of \$85.00 per cwt is up \$1.40 from last month but \$10.10 lower than January 2006. The January all milk price of \$14.40 per cwt is up 30 cents from last month but down 10 cents from January 2006.

Prices Received and Paid Summary United States

Index 1990-92 = 100	2005		2006		2007
	Dec.	Jan.	Dec.	Jan.	Jan.
	Percent				
Prices Received.....	117	113	121	124	124
Prices Paid.....	144	148	150	152	152
Ratio ^{1/}	81	76	81	82	82

^{1/} Ratio of Index of Prices Received by Farmers to Index of Prices Paid.

Compared with January 2006, all **Colorado** crop prices except potatoes averaged higher. Prices for all livestock items averaged lower than a year ago, except for milk which was higher than a year ago. Mid-January 2006 wheat, at \$4.50 per bushel, decreased 1 cent from the previous month but was \$1.02 above January a year ago. Corn, at \$3.25 per bushel, averaged 37 cents above December 2006 and was \$1.09 ahead of January 2006. The mid-January potato price, at \$8.10 per cwt, was up 5 cents from last month but down 65 cents per cwt from January a year ago. Dry beans prices increased \$1.30 per cwt from December to \$22.00 per cwt and were \$2.70 per cwt higher than January last year. Alfalfa hay, at \$140.00 per ton, was unchanged from last month and \$37.00 above January 2006. The other hay price, at \$126.00 per ton, was \$1.00 above last month and was \$27.00 above the January 2006 price. The mid-January steer and heifer price, at \$96.00 per cwt, was down \$2.90 from last month and down \$23.00 from a year ago. Cow prices increased 10 cents per cwt from December to \$43.50 per cwt but averaged \$5.20 per cwt below January 2006. The mid-January 2006 calf price was unchanged from last month at \$112.00 per cwt but was down \$32.00 from a year ago. The January all milk price of \$14.40 per cwt is up 10 cents from last month.

Average Prices Received By Farmers ^{1/}

Item	Unit	Colorado		
		Jan. 2006	Dec. 2006	Jan. 2007
Crops				
Dollars				
Wheat.....	Bu.	3.48	4.51	4.50
Corn.....	Bu.	2.16	2.88	3.25
Barley (All).....	Bu.	^{2/}	^{2/}	^{2/}
Potatoes.....	Cwt	8.75	8.05	8.10
Dry edible beans.....	Cwt	19.30	20.70	22.00
Alfalfa hay (baled).....	Ton	103.00	140.00	140.00
Other hay (baled).....	Ton	99.00	125.00	126.00
Livestock & Products				
Beef Cattle.....	Cwt	118.00	98.30	95.50
Steers & heifers.....	Cwt	119.00	98.90	96.00
Cows.....	Cwt	48.70	43.40	43.50
Calves.....	Cwt	144.00	112.00	112.00
Sheep.....	Cwt	46.00	32.00	^{3/}
Lambs.....	Cwt	103.00	95.00	^{3/}
Milk sold to plants.....	Cwt	14.20	14.30	14.40
United States				
Dollars				
Crops				
Wheat.....	Bu.	3.52	4.51	4.50
Corn.....	Bu.	2.00	3.01	3.13
Soybeans.....	Bu.	5.87	6.18	6.42
Barley (All).....	Bu.	2.42	2.95	3.43
Barley (Feed).....	Bu.	1.94	2.79	2.93
Sorghum.....	Cwt	3.16	6.09	6.43
Potatoes.....	Cwt	7.07	6.90	6.98
Dry edible beans.....	Cwt	19.20	21.60	22.70
Alfalfa hay (baled).....	Ton	96.40	112.00	115.00
Other hay (baled).....	Ton	84.30	99.30	102.00
Onions.....	Cwt	11.70	16.50	26.00
Livestock & Products				
Beef Cattle.....	Cwt	95.10	83.60	85.00
Steers & heifers.....	Cwt	102.00	89.30	90.30
Cows.....	Cwt	47.30	42.20	43.80
Calves.....	Cwt	141.00	115.00	115.00
Sheep.....	Cwt	47.70	35.30	^{3/}
Lambs.....	Cwt	96.10	93.20	^{3/}
Hogs.....	Cwt	40.70	43.50	41.40
Milk sold to plants.....	Cwt	14.50	14.10	14.40
Broilers.....	Lb.	0.380	0.400	0.430

^{1/} Prices received by farmers refer to prices at the point of first sale out of farmer's hands and should not be confused with prices of specific grades or classes of a particular agricultural commodity. They do not include direct government payments.

^{2/} Price not published to avoid disclosure. ^{3/} Mid-month prices discontinued.

**CHICKENS AND EGGS
DECEMBER 2006**

Colorado laying flocks produced 87 million eggs during December 2006 compared with 85 million one month earlier and 94 million during December 2005. The number of layers during December totaled 3.72 million, down 4 percent from 3.89 million a year earlier. The average rate of lay for December 2006, was 2,338 eggs per 100 layers, down 3 percent from the December 2005, total of 2,417 eggs per 100 layers.

U.S. egg production totaled 7.78 billion during December 2006, down slightly from last year. Production included 6.68 billion table eggs, and 1.09 billion hatching eggs, of which 1.03 billion were broiler-type and 66 million

were egg-type. The total number of layers during December 2006 averaged 348 million, down slightly from last year. December egg production per 100 layers was 2,234 eggs, down slightly from December 2005.

All layers in the U.S. on January 1, 2007 totaled 348 million, down slightly from last year. The 348 million layers consisted of 290 million layers producing table or market type eggs, 55.1 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 2.86 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on January 1, 2007, averaged 71.1 eggs per 100 layers, down 1 percent from January 1, 2006.

GRAZING FEE RATES 2006

Colorado monthly grazing fee rates for private, non-irrigated grazing land in 2006 remained unchanged from last year for the animal unit per month (AUM) and cow-calf basis, with AUM averaging \$14.50 per month and cow-calf rates averaging \$16.00 per month. On a per head basis, the average price increased from 2005 by 5 percent to \$15.00 per month.

Grazing fee rates for the **17 Western States** listed in the table averaged higher in all three categories from the previous year. The animal unit rate rose 60 cents to \$13.80 per month, an increase of nearly 5 percent from 2005. Cow-calf rates increased 60 cents to \$15.80 representing an increase of 4 percent from last year. A 40 cent increase in the per head rate for 2006, was a 3 percent increase from the previous year.

Grazing Fee Rates for Cattle by Selected States and Regions

Survey Average Rates ^{1/}						
State	Animal Unit ^{2/}		Cow-Calf		Per Head	
	2005	2006	2005	2006	2005	2006
	Dollars per Month		Dollars per Month		Dollars per Month	
AZ.....	8.00	8.00	7/	7/	9.50	10.00
CA	15.40	16.50	20.50	21.00	17.00	17.00
CO	14.50	14.50	16.00	16.00	14.30	15.00
ID	12.50	12.80	14.60	15.00	13.00	13.50
KS	13.50	13.50	16.50	16.50	14.00	14.00
MT	16.20	16.20	18.70	18.70	17.30	18.30
NE	22.50	24.00	27.50	28.50	25.00	26.00
NV.....	12.20	13.00	12.50	13.50	12.50	13.00
NM.....	9.50	10.00	11.50	12.00	10.80	11.50
ND.....	13.70	14.50	16.00	16.00	14.50	15.00
OK.....	8.00	8.30	10.00	10.50	8.00	8.50
OR.....	13.00	12.50	15.70	15.00	12.80	12.80
SD.....	18.40	20.30	21.90	24.00	19.50	21.00
TX.....	9.40	10.00	9.00	10.00	9.90	9.90
UT.....	11.60	11.70	13.60	14.60	13.00	13.50
WA.....	9.70	9.60	12.50	12.00	12.20	12.20
WY.....	14.80	14.80	17.00	17.30	15.50	15.80
17-State ^{3/}	13.20	13.80	15.20	15.80	14.00	14.40
16-State ^{4/}	14.60	15.20	17.60	18.00	15.60	16.20
11-State ^{5/}	13.70	13.90	16.20	16.40	14.60	15.10
9-State ^{6/}	13.00	13.70	14.80	15.60	13.80	14.20

¹The average rates are estimates based on survey indications of monthly lease rates for private, non-irrigated grazing land from the January Cattle Survey.

² Includes animal unit plus cow-calf rates. Cow-calf rate converted to animal unit (AUM) using (1 aum=cow-calf *0.833).

³ 17 Western States:All States listed.

⁴ 16 Western States:All States except Texas.

⁵ 11 Western States: AZ, CA, CO, ID, MT, NV, NM, OR, UT, WA,and WY.

⁶ 9 Great Plains States: CO, KS, NE, NM, ND, OK, SD, TX, and WY.

⁷ Insufficient data.

UPCOMING REPORTS

Colorado and U.S. data from most of the following reports will appear in subsequent issues of AG UPDATE. However, those who have an immediate need for the data may call this office after 1:15 P.M. on the day of release - toll free 1-800-392-3202. The complete USDA report is also available on the Worldwide Web at: <http://www.nass.usda.gov>

- Feb. 14 - Turkey Hatchery
- Feb. 15 - Crop Values
- Feb. 15 - Potato Stocks
- Feb. 16 - Milk Production
- Feb. 22 - Cold Storage - Monthly
- Feb. 22 - Cold Storage - Annual
- Feb. 23 - Cattle on Feed
- Feb. 23 - Livestock Slaughter
- Feb. 26 - Trout Production
- Feb. 27 - Chickens and Eggs - Annual
- Feb. 27 - Chickens and Eggs - Monthly
- Feb. 28 - Agricultural Prices

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